

President Clinton Visits Washington Fruit Growers

by Scott Hallett, retired District Director, District 5, Washington State

President Clinton came to Washington state on December 1 to meet with state apple growers and other farmers. With little time for preparation, FSA employees throughout our state orchestrated the meeting without a hitch.

As you know from the relentless media coverage, President Clinton, Secretary Glickman, and a host of other officials and Congressional members came to Seattle for the World Trade Organization (WTO) conference. But Clinton also visited with farmers here to highlight free trade and the export of Washington fruit. Thank goodness for the great (and willing) help from several of our counties in preparing for his arrival, or else it wouldn't have been such a huge success.

For several days prior to the visit, we worked with USDA and FSA headquarters staff to prepare. First we provided D.C. with a list of producers involved with fruits and vegetables and exports. The orchardists on our list had to pass security clearances and also be certified as just regular, down-home orchardists. We got together a list of about 60 producers and made arrangements with the Washington Horticulture Association to provide a bus for transportation to Seattle for the invitees.

When we got word from D.C. that everyone on the list was accepted, we had the happy task of calling some



Apple orchardist John Butler introduces President Clinton as Secretary Glickman looks on. *photo by Chris Bieker*

very excited orchardists to finalize the invitations. With the world's greatest flurry of flying fingers on telephones, staff members from Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Okanogan, Pierce, and Yakima counties, along with several state office folks, met the quick deadline.

Considering the swarm of press around the WTO and the disruption by protesters, we didn't know what to expect from the President's visit. We met at a Port of Seattle terminal building, removed from the WTO downtown meeting area. Washington Governor Locke, Secretary Glickman, Under

Secretary Schumacher, and many of the Congressional officials spent quite a bit of time meeting with the farmers prior to the President's arrival.

The President first spent an hour touring the Port of Seattle agricultural facilities with orchardist Phyllis Gleasman from Chelan County. Orchardist John Butler from Okanogan County also spent time with the President and then had the honor of introducing him to the group and media. Both of these folks were really able to

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ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Beanie Babies and Trick-or-Treating Inspire Phenomenal Food Drive

The people who work for FSA are known for much more than just their hard work in the office. Their response to a call for help brings immediate cooperation and action to meet the need, whatever it may be. When Secretary Glickman announced the 2-month USDA Food Drive in October, office staffs across the country, under the coordination of Sue King, FSA's National Coordinator for Field Gleaning and Food Recovery, put their heads together and came up with lots of innovative ideas.

And did they ever come through! Of the 36 states that have reported thus far, USDA Service Center employees across the nation collected more than 1,634,000 pounds of fresh and non-perishable food and over \$16,000 in cash donations. All this in just 2 months!

In Kansas City, Mo., for instance, Wendy Collins reports that KCMO Finance's Debt Management Division (DMD) sponsored activities to raise money for the Harvesters Community Food Network. Karen Williams, Steve

Huckaby, and Jesse Chavez headed up the DMD team, but they say they couldn't have met their goal without the help of all the DMD staff and USDA employees throughout the complex. They sponsored a hamburger and hot dog sale, generating \$305, and raffled two DMD-donated Beanie Baby gift baskets, bringing in another \$1,480. With this money, DMD bought 6,500 pounds of food for the Harvesters.

Deputy Director of Finance, Les Flandermeyer, motivated his divisions with a challenge that he would provide a chili lunch for the division that collected the most food. Looks like he and DMD Chief Kathy Webb-Tapp (who he nominated to help him with the lunch) will soon be busy making enough chili to feed the 35-member DMD staff!

Partnership efforts of the entire USDA complex in Kansas City yielded a total of 12,770 pounds of nonperishable food and \$800 in cash for donation to the local food bank. Local offices of RMA, NITC, OIG, and GIPSA partnered with FSA for this effort. An invitation issued through the Greater Kansas City Federal Executive Board for all Federal agencies to join in the USDA Food Drive also generated donations from GSA, IRS, and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

Meanwhile, in Kansas, enterprising FSA employees in Rooks County donned colorful costumes on Halloween and trick-or-treated to drum up food drive donations — collecting 180 pounds of food and \$50. And in the Coffey County Service Center, employees donated cash and food to the local food bank instead of exchanging Christmas gifts.

In California, Siskiyou Service Center employees donated excess food to

charity from an FSA-sponsored farmers' market. Joe Ulics, CED, notes that FSA manages the Fairlane farmers' market, with the stipulation that participating vendors donate their excess product. This successful, twice-a-week market was the talk-of-the-town last year, so farmers and gardeners were happy to take part, selling fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh and smoked fish, and ranch-raised venison to the appreciative small rural community of Yreka. Last year, vendors donated 1,300 pounds of produce and other goods to a local domestic violence center and a soup kitchen. Some vendors are still continuing to donate fruits and vegetables even after the market season ended.

Other states reported sizable food drive donations ranging from 10,000 to 24,000 pounds. These states include Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

FSA employees also stand ready to help with causes other than food drives. When Washington state FSAers heard that fellow employees in North Carolina were suffering from catastrophic damage due to Hurricane Floyd, they sprang into action. Randy Primmer reports that the Spokane-Pend-Oreille Service Center staff held a potato bake for area USDA employees. Forty people ate potatoes, toppings, and desserts for just \$5. FSA employees unable to attend but wanting to help — even from the neighboring state of Idaho — sent donations. Employees donated all the food as well as their time, and were proud to donate \$370 to recovery efforts.

These are just a few examples of FSA employees' willingness to help those in need and keep the shelves of America's shelters and food pantries

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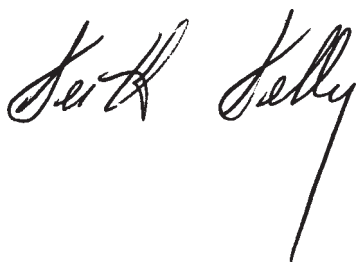
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CLINTON

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stocked with food. And it doesn't end here! I get many reports of FSA employees continuing gleaning and food recovery donation efforts all year long. I'm confident that your enthusiasm and innovative ideas will keep FSA in the forefront of this worthy cause. I encourage FSA's Gleaning and Food Recovery Coordinators and Community Food Security Liaisons to attend the March 30-31 Phoenix, Ariz. forum hosted by the Association of Arizona Food Banks. The forum will focus on building bridges between gleaning, food recovery, and community food security.

The remarkable effort put forth by so many resourceful FSA employees has made a huge difference for so many, and also inspires other Americans to join in the movement to end hunger and improve nutrition. I applaud everyone who generously volunteers their time, donates food or money, or plays some other part in this war against hunger.



make the apple growers' case to the President.

The President spoke about the importance of global trade for our Nation's economy and agricultural producers — focusing on Washington state's fruit growers. He noted his commitment to eliminating export subsidies and agricultural tariffs, which have remained high even as tariffs on manufacturing goods have fallen. The world's nations "need to treat agriculture as we treat other sectors of the economy," he said.

We expected to just be sent home after the speech, but Clinton spent another half hour visiting with our farmers. They really had a great opportunity to talk with the President about Government support, exports, and other issues. Our producers came away very satisfied with the meeting, as the President really listened to their concerns.

Attendee Fritz Glover, who operates Loma Linda Orchard, was encouraged by President Clinton's remarks. "The President and those with him all seemed united in bringing agricultural trade concerns to the forefront," he said. "I was pleased with the President's apparent understanding of

the problems faced by fruit growers and all farmers."

Ben Kern, a Kittitas Valley fruit grower, was also impressed in talking with the President. "He is dedicated to resolving trade issues, especially lowering barriers to our agricultural products, including trying to drop high tariffs that keep our fruit out of some countries." Kern was pleased, for instance, that Clinton announced a reduction to 10 percent by year 2004 in China's 45 percent tariff on Washington-grown fruit. Blocked or closed markets "hurt local farmers and fruit growers," said Kern. "We can feed the world, if they open their trade doors."

The President's speech was televised live nationally, and he was very gracious about having his photo taken with several of the farmers. The exposure for Washington state apples and the fruit industry was tremendous. The President learned a lot about Washington apples, hopefully coming away with a healthy respect for our state's top commodity. He certainly had his fill of our state's choicest apples! The event went far better than we possibly could have hoped. Thanks to all FSA staff members who made it so!

MAKING IT VISUAL

If you want to make your speeches more effective, use visual aids, says Ken Taylor, President of San Francisco-based Decker Communications. Studies have shown that audiences retain more of a presentation when visuals are used. They also add impact and clarity. But don't get carried away! When designing slides or computer screens, for example, be sure that your material is presented simply (no fancy fonts) with a single concept and no more than three bullet points per image. A few bold colors used consistently can add pizzazz without confusing your audience.



New Employee Benefit: Alternative Dispute Resolution

by LeAndrea D. Alsobrook, FSA Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinator

Have you or a coworker ever said something like, "I don't understand why my supervisor keeps making wrong decisions about me. I'm sick of it — I'm going to file a complaint." Or, "Jane is so gossipy. She talks behind my back constantly. I just can't stand to share an office with her anymore."

Now there's a new avenue to help FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA) employees resolve conflicts before they reach the level of a grievance or EEO complaint. Secretary Glickman established the Conflict Resolution and Prevention Center to provide guidance to USDA agencies on developing their own programs to resolve workplace disputes. FSA and RMA launched their program, called Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), last October. To make ADR available to our employees across the country, we solicited predecisional input from FSA and RMA employee unions nationwide and will be working with them on implementation.

ADR involves any method of dispute resolution other than formal adjudication. These methods are nonadversarial in nature and include mediation (the most common form), conciliation, and facilitation, to name a few. ADR addresses workplace disputes and conflicts quickly and gives the parties in the dispute an opportunity to directly resolve issues. Intervention through ADR preserves and rebuilds workplace relationships, which, over time, improves the workplace environment for everyone.

ADR provides *early* resolution of conflicts and disputes. Generally, the earlier ADR is applied to a situation, the better — before individual positions harden. Even in cases where the parties do not reach a resolution, participation in ADR usually improves communication between the parties,

which has a positive overall impact on the work environment.

Employees who request ADR do not waive their rights to pursue a grievance or EEO complaint, should there be no resolution of the conflict/dispute through ADR. Those who request ADR should be aware, however, of the time frames required for other forms of adjudication. Although we anticipate most conflicts/disputes being suitable for ADR, there are some exceptions, like assault.

FSA is using its success with the Agricultural Mediation Program help shape an effective ADR program. FSA has been active with the mediation program for many years, and the program has grown considerably. It is cited by the Department as an excellent example of the positive impact ADR can have toward early dispute resolution. Both President Clinton and Secretary Glickman encourage us to apply what has worked well in the private sector and the Agricultural Mediation Program to ADR. Senior FSA management, including our new Associate Administrator George Arredondo, also supports this new initiative.

If you are interested in pursuing ADR or have questions please contact:

- LeAndrea Alsobrook, FSA ADR Coordinator
202-418-8982 (v) or
202-418-9116 (TDD)
- Kelly Broadway, Kansas City Contact
816-823-3146 (v) or
816-823-3063 (TDD)
- Patti Hill, Kansas City Contact
816-926-2632 (v) or
816-823-3063 (TDD)
- Donna Basset, RMA Liaison
202-690-5701 (v) or
202-720-7259 (TDD)

Or contact any of these individuals using the Federal Relay Service on 1-800-877-8393. Additional information is also available on the ADR website at: <http://dc.ffasintranet.usda.gov/hrd/adr.html>

This site will be updated to keep our employees and customers aware of program developments.

We are looking forward to working with employees to achieve the Secretary's vision of improved workplace quality through early resolution of conflicts and disputes.



FEBRUARY IS FOR THE BIRDS

February is National Wild Bird Feeding Month. The National Bird Feeding Society of Northbrook, Ill., says that February is one of the hardest months for birds to find food. It recommends supplementing their meager diet with suet (solid beef fat) mixed with sunflower seeds, chopped peanuts, millet, cornmeal, and other birdseed.

Looking Back and Looking Forward

by USDA Secretary Glickman

It goes without saying that 1999 was a difficult year for American farmers and ranchers. Farm prices continued to slump. Natural disasters devastated parts of the American landscape, wreaking billions of dollars in damage. Although the worst of the global financial crisis appears to be over, record worldwide grain and oilseed production kept American farm exports low.

USDA was there to help farmers cope. In 1999, we made \$22.7 billion in direct payments and provided over 37,000 loans and loan guarantees worth almost \$4 billion in credit.

While I am proud of what we as a Government agency have done to help farmers, some of it was made necessary by an overall farm policy that fails to provide the critical support our farmers need. We delivered a multibillion dollar emergency assistance package in the fall, but the very fact that we needed such a bill for the second year in a row shows that the 1996 Farm Bill is not living up to its promise.

It is time to move beyond damage control to a policy that helps farmers prepare for disasters and downturns and gives them the tools they need to thrive. We've begun to take the first steps as the Clinton Administration recently proposed a \$1.3 billion conservation initiative that will provide \$600 million to farmers who voluntarily adopt plans to help curb erosion and protect water supplies from runoff. Among other things, the plan will also allow us to enroll 3.6 million more acres in the Conservation Reserve Program, and it invests \$300 million in strengthening other USDA conservation programs. This plan allows us to help farmers, even as we protect our natural resources on behalf of all Americans.

In February, the Administration will offer more farm policy proposals, including a targeted, countercyclical income assistance program. Throughout the year, I will be working closely with both parties in Congress to further repair the holes in the Farm Bill, especially the hole that exists where

there was once a strong farm safety net.

Global trade remains one of the keys to boosting farm incomes. In 1999, despite continuing recession in many of our key foreign markets, we used the tools at our disposal to create export opportunities. We provided export credit guarantees worth more than \$3 billion. We shipped 8 million metric tons of food aid overseas, nearly 5 times the 1998 level. Also, the President relaxed restrictions on the export of food to Iran, Libya, and the Sudan.

I am very optimistic about the agreement we reached in November that moves China one step closer to membership in the World Trade Organization. With the world's largest nation agreeing to play by the rules of international trade, American farmers could eventually increase their exports by nearly a billion dollars a year.

I remain concerned about the increasing concentration in the farm economy and its effect on small family farmers and ranchers. We will continue to work with the Justice Department to vigilantly monitor anti-competitive practices. Passage of a mandatory price reporting bill was one of the key agriculture accomplishments of 1999, and USDA will be working this year to implement the new program.

In 2000, we will be encouraging the pursuit of alternative forms of agriculture. For example, we expect to release the final set of organic agriculture standards, which should stimulate further growth in what is already a multibillion dollar market.

For farmers to prosper, rural America as a whole must prosper. USDA's efforts to improve quality of life in rural communities created or saved nearly 200,000 jobs in 1999. We spent \$3.2 billion to improve rural utilities — everything from basic electricity to waste disposal systems to Internet access. And thanks in part to a \$5.1 billion investment in rural housing, three out of four rural Americans now own their own home. That is the highest rural



home ownership rate in our history, well above the current national rate.

As we reflect on the entire 20th century, we see staggering changes in the way farmers lived, the way they grew their crops, and the way they tended to the land. As recently as 1930, for example, only 13 percent of farms had electricity. The tractor didn't become a farm staple until after World War II. There was barely any focus on private land conservation until the Depression.

Just as much change, if not more, awaits American agriculture in this new century. Change often brings a certain amount of anxiety and uncertainty. But I believe that American farmers and ranchers, the most innovative and resilient in the world, will be able to adapt to change and thrive in the years to come.

As they adapt, they will have a partner and an advocate in USDA. We will continue to be there, conducting cutting-edge research, opening new markets, empowering rural communities, doing everything we can to help farmers turn a profit and meet the challenges of the 21st century.

CED Helps Teens Kick the Habit...Or Never Start

Kentucky has always held the distinction of being number one in the country when it comes to burley tobacco, accounting for nearly 70 percent of all burley produced in the U.S. Unfortunately, the state holds another top ranking that is certainly nothing to brag about. Kentucky has the highest percentage of teenage smokers and tobacco users in the Nation. Enter Bob Montgomery, Allen County CED, who's doing all he can to combat this problem in his community.

On his own time and with private funding, Montgomery has created the Smoke-Free/Tobacco-Free Financial Rewards Program. The program offers cash rewards to local sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students who refrain from using any tobacco products throughout the current school year.

Montgomery developed his idea when a survey revealed that nearly 52 percent of eighth graders in the county had recently smoked cigarettes. The survey also showed a 250 percent increase in the incidence of smoking from the sixth grade to the eighth grade. And these numbers didn't even include those using smokeless tobacco products like snuff and chewing tobacco.

"Teen and preteen smoking is an enormous problem in our community," says Montgomery. "Clearly, we need to go beyond Federal efforts to keep kids smoke-free and respond to the problem in a way that fits the unique needs of our community. I think kids tire of being lectured to about the evils of smoking. My approach redirects kids' priorities and rewards them by providing cash incentives."

The program offers cash rewards of \$25 or a \$50 savings bond to tobacco-free students at James E. Bazzell Middle School in Scottsville. Since the program kickoff in October last year, more than 600 kids (over 90 percent of the student body) have enrolled. Students and their parents or guardians



photo by "The Citizen-Times," Scottsville, Ky.
At the kickoff ceremony, eighth grade student Erica Medley (right) received her enrollment packet from Bob Montgomery, CED, Allen County, Ky. Also on hand was Miss Kentucky, Shanna Moore.

certify in writing that the student is tobacco-free at the beginning of the program. Every time a report card is issued, the student and parents confirm that the student has totally refrained from using tobacco. At the end of the school year in May, all program graduates who remain tobacco-free will receive the cash award or savings bond. The students will also be eligible to win one of 10 additional \$100 cash bonuses that will be awarded through a random drawing.

If this isn't enough, Montgomery is also offering three complete computer systems as grand prizes. North Central Telephone Cooperative recently donated one computer, and Montgomery says he has good prospects of getting two more. Three lucky tobacco-free teens (one from each grade) will win these grand prizes in a drawing. "We're displaying the first donated computer in a glass case in the school hallway," says Montgomery. "It keeps the incentive of remaining tobacco-free fresh in the students' minds."

So far, Montgomery has raised \$20,255 from local businesses and community members. Not surprisingly to him, much of the funding — over

\$8,000 — was contributed by county tobacco producers. "The farmers in Allen County produce a legal product for adults only," says Montgomery. "They believe the decision to smoke should be made by informed adults, and they are committed to preventing tobacco use among youths."

"We think this program is just great," says Amy Barkley, Project Manager for Kentucky ACTION, a coalition of health and youth organizations dedicated to preventing and reducing tobacco use. "We have always known that farmers don't want kids to smoke or use spit tobacco. Now they are putting their money where their mouth is. This is impressive since tobacco farmers are really facing hard times these days." Barkley says her organization and other health groups are helping Montgomery raise additional funds for the program.

Although this project does take up a lot of his free time, Montgomery says it's well worth it. "I'm very passionate about this cause, and the program's totally exceeding my expectations," he says. Montgomery hopes to continue the program next year. "I'll be able to make a better assessment at the end of this school year." So far, it's working — the middle school's principal has noted a dramatic reduction in the number of kids smoking or caught with tobacco products. Montgomery's program has even caught the eye of Kentucky's governor, who's showing interest in possibly funding the program statewide.

This project has a lot of potential to be a far-reaching approach to curbing tobacco use among teens. "Given the gravity of teen smoking," says Montgomery, "I couldn't stand by and do nothing any longer. That would be like condoning the problem. Children need every opportunity to succeed."

Want to know more? Check out Montgomery's Smoke-Free/Tobacco-Free website at: <http://www.nctc.com/~montgomery/SMOKEFREE>

Young Offenders Learn to Work for Food

by Dan Abeyta, State Outreach Coordinator, New Mexico State Office; and Larry Sánchez, CED, Valencia-Cibola County Office, N.M.

When kids get into trouble around Albuquerque, N.M., some are given a choice of their “punishment.” The delinquent teens could go to Springer (to the New Mexico Boys’ School for Juvenile Offenders) or go to work in the fields — planting, weeding, and harvesting crops. It’s no surprise that they all choose field work, under an innovative program called Agri-Vision, started by FSA staff member Dan Abeyta.

Abeyta, State Outreach Coordinator in the New Mexico State Office, and Larry Sánchez, CED, Valencia-Cibola County Office, are beginning their third year of working with the Agri-Vision Outreach Project on the Isleta Pueblo, a Native American reservation near Albuquerque. The primary purpose is to teach kids the value of hard work and sweat — that effort is required to produce something worthwhile. “They learn responsibility, communication, and even how to sharpen a hoe,” says Sánchez.

“It’s a strong message for juvenile thieves and vandals who probably have never worked this hard before.

Under a hot southwestern sun — planting seeds, irrigating crops, wielding shovels and hoes — they soon learn what it really means to work for food. It’s rewarding to turn these kids around,” Sánchez says. “They come to us with an attitude, and we see them change. They learn something different, something interesting they’ve never been exposed to. Then they look back and say, ‘We did all this!’”

Abeyta founded Agri-Vision when he realized adolescents needed some help at the Isleta Pueblo. “There was a surge in crime and gang violence. Teens were particularly vulnerable,” he says. Abeyta felt that agriculture — from planting the first seeds to harvesting the crop — could be the constructive educational activity teens needed. Sánchez, the volunteer manager of Agri-Vision, uses his spare time to supervise two acres of crops planted by young offenders and other teens who are not in trouble but want to do community service. About 55 teens and 15 adults participated last year, with many of the adults donating land, seeds, tools, and their expertise.

Agri-Vision does not just wait for kids to be arrested before they can be a part of the project. Last year, for the first time, kindergartners in the pueblo’s Head Start program were given a garden plot to plant radishes, squash, cucumbers, and corn. “Why wait until they’re at risk?” Abeyta says. Sánchez adds, “We wanted to do some early prevention, so we started with the little ones.” “Plus,” says Abeyta, “younger pueblo members benefit from learning traditional farming methods their ancestors used.”

District Judge Michael Martinez of Albuquerque’s Children’s Court sees this program as a “therapeutic approach to redirect young people’s behavior through an agricultural experience. These kids made a poor choice in judgment. They are not felons, but marginal offenders. They need a second chance.” Agri-Vision gives them that chance with its unique way of fulfilling community service requirements. The judge feels it doesn’t hurt that the young offenders get their hands dirty with hard, honest work either.



At-risk youths working in the fields.
photos by Dan Abeyta



A participating young teen mother and her child.



Program participant and Larry Sánchez, CED.

THE 10 BEST FOODS

The Center for Science in the Public Interest recently listed the top 10 most nutritious foods that you’re likely to find on supermarket shelves:

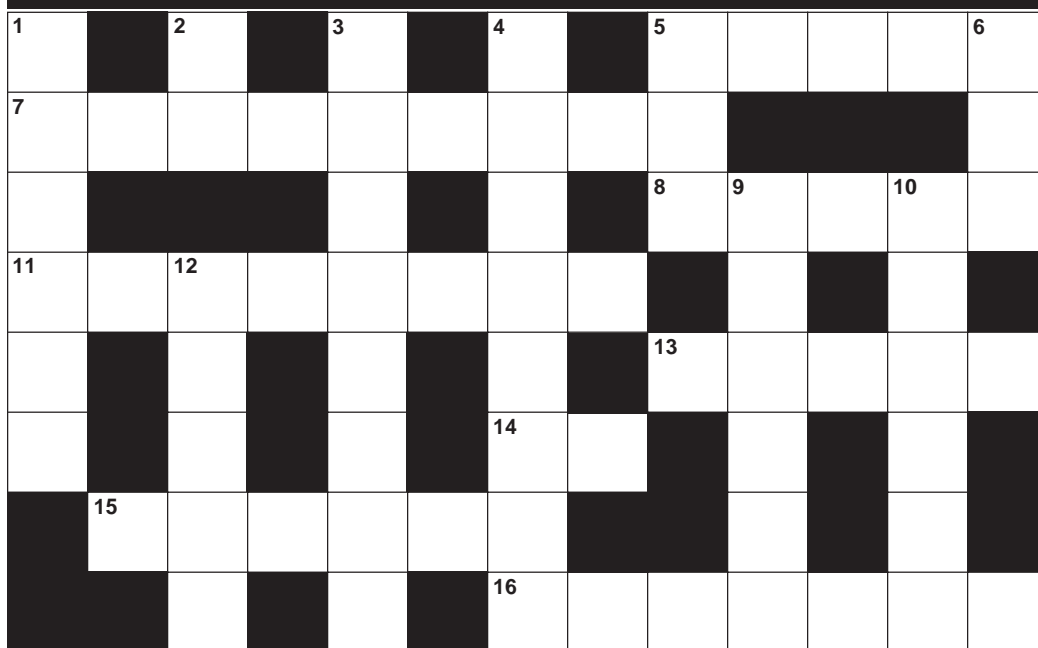
Beans
Oranges

Broccoli
Fat-free or 1 percent milk

Oatmeal
Spinach and kale

Strawberries
Cantaloupe

Sweet potatoes
Whole-grain bread

FEBRUARY FSA CROSSWORD**DOWN**

1. _____ rice containing over 3 percent of the disease is ineligible for FSA loans
2. Right _____ rain
3. Doing this to identify farm animal ownership might date as far back as 7,000 years
4. FSA meetings with producers may take place here
5. Short for Executive Secretariat Staff, this staff is responsible for answering the Agency's correspondence
6. Female sheep
9. Steep certain leaves in boiling water and drink from this vessel
10. Grape with a good tan
12. Land units

ACROSS

5. The Conservation Reserve Program protects topsoil before it starts to _____
7. Some of these are called inky caps because when it rains they dissolve into black fluid containing spores (some inky caps are even edible)
8. With their large unblinking eyes, Woodsy and his friends seem to _____ at you
11. A great way to advance your skills as an FSA employee
13. It's a good _____ to eat five fruits and vegetables every day
14. Cool _____ a cucumber
15. The inside of a seed, fruit stone, or nut
16. If you notice your horse doing this, call the vet

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Location	Event
Month of February		African American Heritage Month
February 3-6	Las Vegas, Nev.	Administrator Kelly and Larry Mitchell, Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs, to attend NAFEC Meeting
February 4-5	San Antonio, Texas	Carolyn Cooksie, Deputy Administrator for Farm Loan Programs, to attend NACS Zone B Meeting
February 7	Tallahassee, Fla.	Administrator Kelly to attend USDA 1890 Task Force Meeting
February 8	Memphis, Tenn.	Administrator Kelly to speak at United Soybean Board Meeting
February 11	Tuskegee, Ala.	Administrator Kelly to attend Tuskegee University's Annual Farmers Conference
February 11-12	Savannah, Ga.	Administrator Kelly and Carolyn Cooksie to attend NACS Zone D Meeting
February 11-13	Oklahoma City, Okla.	Larry Mitchell to attend American Agriculture Movement's 20 th Annual Convention
February 19-26		National FFA Week
February 21		Presidents' Day
February 28-30	Dallas, Texas	Larry Mitchell to attend Texas Farmers Union Convention

Note: The above is subject to change.